

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 27 and 28 are presently active in this case, Claims 2-4, 8-18, and 20-22 having been previously canceled, and Claims 1, 5-7, 19, and 23-26 have been canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 5-7, 19, and 23-26 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-3, and 5-9 of copending Application No. 11/687,923; Claim 1, 5-7, 19, and 23-26 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 11/688,009; Claims 1, 5-7, 19, and 23-26 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-9 of copending Application No. 11/687,956; Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asai et al. (USP 6,018,366, hereinafter “Asai”) in view of Kokado Koichi et al.; and Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Asai in view of Kokado Koichi et al. and in further view of Goertzen (USP 6,289,132).

In view of the new Claims 27 and 28 submitted herewith, which correspond to Claims 1 and 2 of the corresponding Japanese Patent No. 4015934, the outstanding grounds for obviousness type double patenting are believed to be moot. If not, a requirement for filing of a terminal disclaimer is requested to be held in abeyance until such time as allowable subject matter is indicated in the present application.

New Claims 27 and 28 are directed to a video encoding method (and corresponding video encoder) involving encoding index information indicating three information elements (A)

a reference picture, (B) a weighting factor prepared for each of luminance and two color differences and (C) an offset prepared for each of luminance and two color differences (if respective weighting factors and offsets of the luminance and two color differences are considered, there are seven information elements in total). As a result, coding efficiency can be improved.

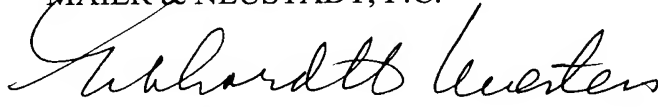
The outstanding Office Action states that Asai discloses “index information indicating the selected combination (i.e., fig. 8, shows encoding circuit for encoding predictive error signal, information of the motion vector, and index information indicating the selected combination, e.g., luminance and chrominance sorter, consider as index information).” However, Asai discloses in Fig. 8 and columns 7 and 8 that “the sample density of the luminance signal and that of the color difference signal are equal, and the video data 103 is transformed to a transform coefficient 104 of a frequency domain using the DCT 4 in each 8 by 8 macroblock, and at a quantizer 5, quantizing of the transform coefficient is performed to obtain the quantized information 105, i.e. the quantized index 105. However, Asai does not teach index information indicating the selected combination.

In particular, Asai does not teach the claimed index information indicating three information elements of (A) a reference picture, (B) a weighting factor prepared for each of luminance and two color differences and (C) an offset prepared for each of luminance and two color differences. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding grounds for rejection based on the combinations of Asai and Kokado Koichi et al. and/or Goertzen have been overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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